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ARCHAEOLOGY IN 1911

PART II

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The attention of the American School was this year devoted largely to several new sites in Locris. Only a short campaign was undertaken at Corinth, principally in the region of Pirene, where the difficult problem of handling the water supply so as not to menace the health of the modern inhabitants was at last successfully solved, and a good deal more evidence as to the form of the fountain in Roman times was obtained.

In Locris an attempt was made to settle the disputed question of the location of ancient Opus. This work was undertaken at the instance of Professor Buck, and at his request the University of Chicago made a contribution to the expense of the excavations. It was hoped that careful exploration of the ruins of several towns in the neighborhood of Kyparissi and Atalante (one of which must be ancient Opus) would produce evidence as to the site of the town. In this the excavators were disappointed. At Kyparissi a Doric temple was uncovered, as well as some badly preserved Greek and Roman houses at the foot of the acropolis, but no inscriptions were found. At Atalante a part of the town wall, dating probably from the fourth century B.C., and parts of a Roman building were cleared, but here, too, no conclusive evidence as to ancient Opus was found, and further excavation will be necessary before the problem is solved. Some tentative excavations at Chiliadon (the ancient Korseia) brought to light a few graves, but no inscriptions.

While these investigations in the neighborhood of Atalante were going on, two members of the American School, Miss Walker and Miss Goldman, conducted a very successful "dig" at their own expense at the site of ancient Halae (Theologon, near Malesina). Between thirty and forty graves of different types—sarcophagi,

pithoi, and simple pits lined with stone—were opened, and yielded vases and terra cottas, ranging all the way from proto-Corinthian and Corinthian types to late Hellenistic and Roman; part of the town wall on the acropolis was cleared; and five inscriptions were found, one a list of officials, dating probably from the fourth century B.C., with interesting titles and dialectic forms. At one point deep excavation revealed traces of a prehistoric settlement.

Near Elatea, where Mr. Soteriades has discovered so many traces of early settlements, he is now said to have discovered an entire prehistoric village, which shows different periods of occupation from the beginning to the end of the Bronze age. The objects found present many interesting analogies to the finds in Crete.

In Thessaly, so far as I have seen, little new work has been done, but we now have an excellent résumé of the work of recent years in Messrs. Wace and Thompson's *Prehistoric Thessaly*, recently issued by the Cambridge University Press.

Finally, the most striking discoveries of the year in Greek lands were made in a region which hitherto has yielded comparatively few antiquities, the island of Corcyra. Here, some distance south of the modern town of Corfu, near the monastery of Goritsa, a fragment of relief found by chance in the fall of 1910 led to a superficial exploration by the director of the local museum, Mr. Marmoras. The block from which the fragment came was discovered and recognized as part of a large pedimental relief of the archaic period. In April, 1911, therefore, the Greek Archaeological Society undertook a more thorough investigation of the site, and soon recovered most of the blocks of the pediment. During the spring, the German Emperor visited the excavations and expressed a desire to carry on the work at his own expense on a somewhat larger scale. The Greek officials agreed, and the work was continued until the beginning of June under the supervision of Dr. Dörpfeld. The temple from which the reliefs came proved to be almost completely ruined. Besides the blocks of the pediment only a few fragments of the columns, a very early Doric capital, two triglyphs, fragments of the sima, and a few roof tiles were found. The tiles were of island marble, the other parts of porous. The pedimental reliefs, however, are of the greatest interest. The

center is occupied by a great figure of Medusa 3.50 meters high, whose head, though markedly archaic, has much less "horrific" quality than is common in early Greek art. Next are her offspring, whom she embraces—on the right, Pegasus, on the left, Chrysaor—both much smaller in proportion than the central figure. Then comes, on each side, a panther lying down, intended, evidently, to set off the central group. The remaining blocks are carved with an entirely different subject, the battle of the gods and the giants. On the right-hand side only one block, with a figure of Zeus brandishing his thunderbolt against a giant, is preserved; the two blocks nearest the angle are lost. On the left-hand side the corner block contains the figure of a fallen giant; the next block, on which his opponent was probably carved, is lost; and the third contains an altar and a seated goddess (perhaps Ge, the mother of the giants and the Gorgons), against whom an opponent, now broken away, brandished a lance. The whole was originally some twenty-two meters long. The flatness of the relief, the different sizes of the figures, and above all, the curious attempt to crowd two subjects into the frame of a single pediment, show the very early date of the artist. In style the work is rather Peloponnesian than Attic, as might be expected in Corcyra, the colony of Corinth. Very few smaller finds were made, so that it is impossible to determine the divinity to whom the temple was dedicated, but the building possesses a further claim to attention in that its altar is excellently preserved, some distance in front of the building and connected with it by a paved roadway. It is a long rectangular construction, like the altars of which remains have been found in Sicily, and is decorated with a frieze of triglyphs and metopes—by far the earliest example of such a decorative use of these elements of Doric architecture that has yet been discovered.

In Italy the most remarkable discoveries of the year were made at Pompeii, where excavations on a comparatively large scale have once more been undertaken. Indeed, the reports of the recent work, which have been published with notable promptness in the *Notizie degli Scavi*, recall the earlier days of the exploration of this perennially interesting city. The principal undertaking during

1911 was the complete excavation of the so-called House of the Count of Turin, which proved to be the house of M. Obellius Firmus and his father, already known from two election notices (*CIL*, IV, 3828 and 6621). It was an elaborate house, with two atria, a large peristyle, and many rooms. Like so many other houses, it was evidently undergoing repairs at the time of the catastrophe, but many parts are quite well preserved. One of the most interesting features is a shrine of household gods which was found in the kitchen. It consists of a niche in the wall, in which is painted a figure of Fortuna, with a Lar on either side. On the wall above the niche, at the left, is a figure of Heracles; below is the usual serpent, and also a pig and a banqueting-scene, with figures of three men and three women. In one corner of the principal atrium a well-preserved lararium appeared. It consists of a square block of masonry some three feet high, with a niche in one side, supporting a sort of open shrine formed by a column at the outer angle, and a half-column and a pilaster attached to the wall at either side. Above on each side is a pediment. Inside the shrine were found three badly damaged statues (one of marble, two of terra cotta), a small terra cotta altar, and a lamp of the same material, a bronze coin of Caligula, and an iron receptacle for charcoal. Such lararia in the atrium are rare. They seem to be survivals of an early stage in the development of the house, when the hearth was the altar of the Lares and the atrium, therefore, their natural place. In the fauces of one of the doorways, finally, were the skeletons of four adults and two children, who had apparently taken refuge there from the outside. Just southwest of the house of Obellius a much smaller house of the earliest Pompeian type was cleared. Its walls are of Sarno limestone, and it consists of fauces, Tuscan atrium, and a few small rooms.

Toward the end of the year the main force of workmen was transferred to the eastern part of the Strada dell' Abbondanza. Here, at a cross-roads, where two smaller streets joined the larger road, was found the most complex and interesting example of a compitum with its shrine of the Lares Compitales yet unearthed at Pompeii. In the center of the street is a fountain of the usual type, and near it, placed against the wall of a house, an altar of

masonry some three feet high, on the top of which were still visible traces of burnt vegetable matter and ashes. Above the altar are two paintings. In the lower one appears the customary serpent, moving toward the offerings deposited for him on a cylindrical altar; at the right is a club. In the upper painting each end is occupied by a Lar pouring a libation. Between them the space is filled by an altar, with a fire burning upon it, and five figures. One of these, behind the altar, is clearly a priest, the other four are ministri, placed in pairs, one at each side; they wear white robes, and one plays the double flute. Above the priest the painting is injured, but a lower layer of stucco is preserved, and on this is painted a tablet with four names, Successus, Victor, A[s]clepiades, Co[n]sta[n]s. These must be the names of the collegium who had charge of the Compitalia in one of the last years of the city's life, and who had the painting renewed in preparation for the festival. Probably, therefore, we should recognize in the priest of the existing painting the *vici magister*, and in his assistants the *ministri vici et compiti* who arranged the last celebration of the Compitalia. Finally, at the left of the painting with the Lares, and slightly higher in the wall, is painted a group of twelve gods—Jupiter, Juno, Mars, Minerva, Hercules, Venus, Mercury, Proserpina, Vulcan, Ceres, Apollo, and Diana—somewhat similar to the group from which the *Vicolo dei dodici dei* takes its name, though the deities are not all the same, and the grouping is very different.

In the buildings along this section of the Strada dell' Abbondanza not much was done in 1911, though one shop was recognized as a thermopolium, or shop for the sale of warm drinks, and its complete excavation in the spring of 1912 showed that it was remarkably well preserved. In the whole section so far excavated the walls were covered with election notices. They are especially numerous near the entrance to the wineshop, a fact which suggests an interesting comparison between ancient and modern electioneering. Most of these notices conform to well known types, but a number show interesting details. In one, below the heading *C. Cuspium aed.*, we read:

*Si qua verecunde viventi gloria danda est,
Huic inveni debet gloria digna dari.*

an interesting variant on the well known distich in honor of M. Lucretius Fronto (*CIL*, IV, 6626). In another inscription, over the name of the candidate Marcellus, is written in small letters most of the first line of the *Aeneid*. Perhaps Marcellus was prone to exaggerate the importance of his undertakings, or perhaps it is a "local hit" to which we lack the key. In still another, the election of C. Iulius Polybius is urged by a certain Zmyrina, whose name appears only dimly under a coat of whitewash. Apparently Polybius felt that his candidacy would not be aided by Zmyrina's support, and attempted, unsuccessfully, to blot out her name. It is such details, quite as much as the ruined houses and shops, that make the Pompeians live again for us.

At Ostia, though no such striking finds were made as at Pompeii, the excavations made steady progress. More tombs along the Via Ostiensis were opened, the region about the gate was further explored, and some work was done in the barracks of the vigiles, in the baths, and in the theater. Professor Vaglieri is trying especially to clear the spaces between the buildings already excavated, and his efforts have met with such success that Dr. Ashby, in a letter to the *Times*, remarks that these excavations "begin to vie with those of Pompeii as the most important in Italy. The main street has now been laid bare for nearly five hundred yards."

In Rome, the most important archaeological event of the year was undoubtedly the "Mostra Archeologica." This exhibition was intended primarily to illustrate the extent and power of the Roman Empire by bringing together in casts and models, drawings and photographs, representations of the principal monuments in what were once the Roman provinces. It was organized as a part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of Rome as the capital of United Italy. For the reception of the reproductions several parts of the Baths of Diocletian which had not been used before for the Museo Nazionale were cleared out and repaired. The original scheme was more or less modified in execution, and the contributions for the different provinces, which were arranged through the co-operation of foreign governments, were not all equally complete or representative, but the exhibition as a whole was most impressive, and it is hoped that a large

part of it will remain as a permanent section of the national collections. An excellent account and criticism of the Mostra by Mrs. Strong appears as the first article in the first number of the new *Journal of Roman Studies*, published last spring.

Partly, perhaps, on account of the Mostra and the other activities incident to the anniversary celebrations, no great amount of scientific exploration was carried on in Rome and its immediate neighborhood. On the Palatine, Commendatore Boni, working in the ruins of the Domus Flavia, uncovered the triclinium of Domitian, with the largest and most splendid pavement yet found in the Imperial palace. It is over one thousand square meters in area, made of oriental granite, with a border of Numidian marble and other varieties of African stone, and is raised on pillars to provide space for heating. In the atrium of the palace an octagonal basin, which had been broken through in the course of previous excavations, was completely cleared. It proved to be some sixty feet across and two and a half feet deep, with traces of the original lining of marble.

In connection with the Zona Monumentale, also, some work was done. One feature of the present plans is the replanting of the gardens of the Baths of Caracalla, and as a preliminary step this area is being carefully investigated under Professor Lanciani's direction. The most important result so far reported is the discovery of remains of a splendid colonnade which bordered the gardens at the back. A number of tombs show that in the Middle Ages this site was used as a burying-ground, and it appears that as early as the tenth century A.D. the plundering of the baths for building-material had gone as far as at the present time.

Among the chance finds of the year in Rome and its vicinity the most interesting that I have noticed are a sarcophagus of fairly good workmanship, with scenes from the myth of Medea at Corinth, from a group of tombs discovered in laying foundations near the corner of the Viale Principessa Margherita and the Via di Porta Maggiore, and a large hoard of coins, dating from Antoninus Pius to Gallienus, found in laying foundations for granaries near the Monte Testaccio.

Of minor discoveries in other parts of Italy the following are

perhaps worthy of brief notice. Near Osimo Professor dall' Osso, the director of the Museum at Ancona, discovered the ruins of a large Gallic settlement, superimposed on a collection of neolithic huts. In the royal hunting-park near Castel Porziano excavations conducted by Professor Lanciani under the patronage of Queen Helena brought to light an inscription which shows that this district served in Imperial times the same purpose that it now serves. The inscription records that two officers of the Imperial guard of gamekeepers and foresters (*Collegium Saltuariorum*) had made a present to the guild itself of a set of *imagines Augustorum nostrorum*, to be placed in the *schola*, or meeting-place of the corporation. A square apartment surrounded by a colonnade is thought by Lanciani to be the *schola* in question. At Sorrento a considerable number of excellent statues was found, some of them apparently from the pediment of a Greek temple of the end of the fourth century. Near by, at Villazano, Mr. Macchioro, of the Naples Museum, cleared part of a splendid villa, richly decorated with marble, and discovered several statues and reliefs, probably of the time of Hadrian. At Paestum some work was carried on at the great temple, and close by, remains of Roman buildings and a statue of Claudius were found. In Calabria Professor Orsi discovered the site of Caulonia and the remains of a Greek temple near Monasteracci. Excavations at Cumae and at Caere, also, are reported, but I have not seen any account of the results.

Finally, I mention with considerable mental reservations the report that the real Sabine villa of Horace has at last been discovered at a site called Vigna di Corte, not far from Licenza. The statements which I have seen are to the effect that "excavations have brought to light certain proofs of the residence of the poet at this place." What has actually been found consists of the ruins of a villa, situated on a hill and bounded on both sides by the Digentia, with a garden in front and a farm at one side. The reports speak vaguely of several rooms, including a frigidarium and a caldarium of the period of Augustus, and of fragments of wall paintings, but until more definite proofs are brought forward one may be pardoned a certain skepticism in regard to this latest location of the "Sabine farm."